

USDA Invests in Honey Bee Pollinator Effort

This effort is designed to increase the overall health of honey bees and other pollinators by establishing or improving existing floral forage habitats. These designed forages habitats will be high in nectar and pollen.

A large percentage of the nation's commercial honey bee hives are brought to the upper Midwest where the bees rest and feed upon quality forage in preparation for overwintering.

The region of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan are home to 65 percent of the Nations 2.5 million commercial Honey Bee colonies.

By increasing the availability of forages that have low or no pesticide exposure will help to improve the condition and survival of honey bees.

The Honey Bee Pollinator Effort is designed to promote voluntary, incentive-based forage planting and management of such forages on private and Tribal working lands.

For more information on these opportunities, visit a local NRCS service center.



<<Insert FO Address>>
<<Insert FO City and State>>
<<Insert FO Phone #>>



Honey Bee Pollinator Effort

Helping producers manage their working lands in a way that is beneficial to pollinating habitat, compatible with agricultural production, and good stewardship of the land.



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Helping People Help the Land

Honey Bee Pollinators (HBP) Effort

The North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding available to help producers provide floral forage habitats that will benefit pollinating species on the state's working lands.

Applications will be accepted through **Nov. 21, 2014.**



This effort will leverage existing capabilities and resources, target assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engage State and local partners, and facilitate collaboration with agricultural producers, Tribes and others.

The objective of the Honey Bee Pollinators Effort is to provide rest and safe high quality feed in order to increase survival of colonies and retard "Colony Collapse".

Although the name states only Honey Bees, North Dakota has hundreds of different pollinators, both native and non native species. These pollinators feed on flowering plants throughout the spring, summer, and fall months.

What Conservation Practices are Available Through the HBP Effort ?

Available conservation practices will be specifically targeted to counter the following **threats** to honey bees:

- Conversion of habitat to wind-pollinated crops
- Loss of foraging plants to broadleaf herbicides
- Mortality caused by insecticides or lack of bee-safe Integrated Pest Management strategy.
- Grazingland management favoring invasive grasses which outcompete native wildflowers

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary program which provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns.

Through EQIP, NRCS will utilize core conservation practices that are highly beneficial to pollinator production.

The program also provides opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural lands.



How This Effort Fits Into Your Operation

This effort can assist in implementing Honey Bee beneficial practices on cropland such as:

- Conservation crop rotation to include pollinator crops (canola, sunflower)
- Pollinator field borders
- Integration of different techniques of pest management
- Species diverse cover crop

Honey bee beneficial practices on grassland:

- Managed habitat at hive locations
- Managed bloom periods on hayland
- Prescribed grazing to enhance native wildflowers
- Planted grass with pollinator species



**For more information please contact
your local NRCS office.**

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